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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/809,527	03/26/2004	Ian J. Baker	84737 3118 PDG	7525
20736	7590	05/15/2006	EXAMINER	
MANELLI DENISON & SELTER 2000 M STREET NW SUITE 700 WASHINGTON, DC 20036-3307			ROSS, DANA	
			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			3722	

DATE MAILED: 05/15/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/809,527

Applicant(s)

BAKER, IAN J.

Examiner

Dana Ross

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 24 April 2006.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-12 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-12 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 26 March 2004 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

1. The rejections under 35 USC 112 2nd paragraph are withdrawn due to Applicant's amendment filed 24 April 2006.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

2. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

3. Claims 1-11 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by US Pat. No. 4,964,766 (Turchan et al., hereafter '766).

'766 teaches three clamp pairs with clamping and seating pads on either side of the workpiece 2 (see figure 14, for example); push clamps 25, 26 opposite locating pins 22, 21, dampening device 23, 24, movable locating pin structure 27 with hydraulic cylinder 40 and rubber support pin 32 (see col. 5, line 42 through col. 7, line 23 and figures 2 and 14 for example); wedge lock clamp 6 (see figure 9A, for example) that clamps and dampens vibration along the z-axis (col. 3, lines 63-64, for example).

'766 teaches a machining process, specifically a face mill 37.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

4. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

5. Claim 12 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over ‘766 in view of Applicant’s Admitted Prior Art (AAPA).

Regarding claim 12, Examiner notes that a workpiece starts off in a “rough” condition before machining with an initial machining process for removal of bulk material. The removal of material is the process of machining. The machining process includes an initial rough machining process with the tool starting the machining operation and a final machining process where the details are machined. Furthermore, the machining process includes these steps when the workpiece is forwarded to another machining process where the workpiece is again in a rough initial state for rough machining then is machined to a final machining state. ‘766 specifically teaches the clamping of the workpiece for accurate machining (see col. 7, lines 7-34, for example).

‘766 does not expressly disclose releasing the clamp pairs and re-securing them.

AAPA teaches it is well known in the art to machine a component and then release it to allow the distortion to residual stresses and then the clamp/machine process is again repeated until the final profile is achieved.

It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art to modify the method of clamping a workpiece as taught by ‘766 to include the releasing and re-securing of the

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workpiece to allow residual stresses to be released as taught by AAPA for the purpose of more accurate machining.

Response to Arguments

6. Applicant's arguments filed 24 April 2006 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive.

Applicant asserts that the Turchan does not disclose “three clamp pairs” as claimed in claim 1.

As stated above and in the previous office action, Turchan specifically teaches, for example, push clamps 25, 26 opposite locating pins 22, 21 and wedge lock clamp 6 (see figure 14). This provides for “three clamp pairs” holding a component 2 (workpiece).

Applicant next asserts that Turchan does not disclose “simultaneous machining of opposite faces of a component”.

Examiner notes that Applicant's inventions of claims 1 and 11 are directed towards the apparatus and method of a “mounting arrangement” with the intended use of “simultaneous machining of opposite faces of a component”. Applicant's disclose discusses the “mounting arrangement” and all drawings are directed to this “mounting arrangement”. Applicant's disclosure (specification or drawings) does not disclose an embodiment of the machine method or apparatus. Turchan expressly discloses the claimed limitations of the “mounting arrangement” and there is nothing limiting in the “mounting arrangement” of Turchan that would preclude “simultaneous machining of opposite faces of a component” depending on the type of machine used.

Conclusion

7. Applicant's amendment necessitated the new ground(s) of rejection presented in this Office action. Accordingly, **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL**. See MPEP § 706.07(a). Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the date of this final action.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Dana Ross whose telephone number is 571-272-4480. The examiner can normally be reached on Mon-Thurs.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Monica Carter can be reached on 571-272-4475. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

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Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).



dmr


MONICA CARTER
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER